

## **ANNOUNCING THE AGRICULTURAL WATERFOWL INCENTIVE PROGRAM**



April 8, 1998

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, announced today that proposals are now being accepted from landowners interested in participating in the Agricultural Waterfowl Habitat Incentive Program. The program, authorized under section 3406(b)(22) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), provides incentives for farmers to flood their fields during appropriate time periods for the purpose of creating habitat for wintering and breeding waterfowl and for enhancing Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- The program is open to lands within the Central Valley Project service area.
- Landowners must have irrigated and harvested a crop on the offered field(s) sometime during the past five years.
- Agriculture operations that would qualify include small grains, irrigated pasture, alfalfa, and annual row crops, with wildlife compatible crops receiving a higher priority.

Two options are available to landowners:

FALL/WINTER flooding to provide a minimum of 80 acres of habitat for migrating waterfowl.

SPRING/SUMMER flooding to provide a minimum of 3 acres of breeding habitat for resident waterfowl.

### **SUBMITTED PROPOSALS SHOULD CONTAIN:**

- A detailed written legal description of the location and acreage of the agricultural fields offered for flooding, including a site map of the offering in relation to other fields on the farm, and an area map showing proximity of the farm to the nearest town and major roads.
- The crop being grown, or to be grown on the field(s) and the recent cropping history of the offered field(s) and adjacent fields.
- The field condition at the time of proposed flooding (harvested, not harvested, fallow, burned, etc.). If farmed to rice, include the method of harvest.
- The water supply to be utilized (water district supply, water rights, ground water, etc.) including the point of diversion, source of water, and any appropriate permit numbers.
- The estimated quantity of water required and the estimated cost of providing waterfowl habitat.
- The proposed dates for flooding and draining the offered fields.
- The type and amount of incentive requested (based on cost-share agreements of up to 50%).

Proposals will be accepted on a year-round basis.

Those wishing to receive more detailed information or wish to submit proposals should contact Dale Garrison, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist and Program Manager for the Agricultural Waterfowl Incentive Program, at 2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 375, Sacramento, California 95825. PHONE: (916) 979-2085, FAX: (916) 979-2092.

# SAMPLE APPLICATION LETTER

Jerry Mander Ranch  
P.O. Box 3006  
Willows, CA 95685

April 10, 1998

Dale Garrison, Agricultural Waterfowl Incentive Program Manager  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
2233 Watt Ave., Suite 375  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your announcement for the Incentive Program to Flood Agricultural Fields for Waterfowl. I own 440 acres of agricultural land in Glenn County located in Section 9, Township 18 North, Range 3 West. My ranch is just west of Interstate 5 across from the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and is within the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District. I have enclosed a map that depicts the location of my ranch and its relationship to the refuge. I would like to participate in the incentive program for flooding agricultural lands for waterfowl habitat. I propose to flood 320 acres of harvested corn stubble from approximately mid-October of this year to the end of February next year.

I plan to utilize a portion of my water supply available from the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to flood the lands, and can maintain the fields as needed with an irrigation well. I have grown corn and barley on these fields for the past ten years. My adjacent fields have been managed as irrigated pasture and tomatoes for the same time period. The neighboring ranches are primarily rice growers with some row crops.

I will use approximately \_\_\_\_ acre-feet of water to flood the fields to a depth of six inches. The fields have been laser leveled so water control and depth is easy to maintain. The water will be delivered from the CGID system which diverts water from the Sacramento River at Hamilton City (mile 36.96L). I will de-water the fields beginning March first. I estimate that \_\_\_\_ acre-feet will be drained into Logan Creek. The fields drain east to Logan Creek and then to the 2047 Drain. Enclosed is a letter from the GCID that outlines their operations that comply with the Endangered Species Act and assures that the water supply I will utilize for the program will not reduce water for duck clubs.

I have not flooded any of my fields in the past due to the cost of pumping well water to maintain water depths. I expect that my costs for participating in the program will total about \$\_\_\_\_\_. The costs include: GCID water costs (\$\_\_\_\_/acre); pumping costs and maintenance of my irrigation well (\$\_\_\_\_/acre-foot); and labor costs to check and maintain fields (\$\_\_\_\_/hour). Therefore the incentive I am requesting is \$\_\_\_\_\_, in order to offset these costs. I would like to utilize the incentive program to determine if flooding of my fields can be a benefit to farm operations and also result in opportunities for additional income.

I am available to answer any questions you may have regarding the flooding of my fields for the ducks and geese. My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_, or I can be reached at the above address.

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